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FM AMCONSUL SAO PAULO
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6916
INFO RHEHNSC/NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL WASHDC IMMEDIATE
RUEHBR/AMEMBASSY BRASILIA PRIORITY 8049
RUEHRI/AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO PRIORITY 8055
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STATE INR/R/MR; IIP/R/MR; WHA/PD

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TAGS: [KMDR](#) [OPRC](#) [OIIIP](#) [ETRD](#) [BR](#)
SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION: EUROPE: UK, TONY BLAIR STEPS DOWN; SAO PAULO

"Tony Blair's Debacle"

Center-right national circulation daily O Estado de S. Paulo editorialized (5/12): "Prime Minister Tony Blair announced that he will not conclude his third term at a moment when only 22% of Brits declare trust in him. This has nothing to do with the unsteadiness of popular sentiment. Blair can only blame himself for his debacle, more exactly of deserving the nickname of Bush's poodle. Not only as a result of his amazing and as of yet unexplained explained subservience to the worst of what the US has ever produced in terms of presidents and foreign policy, but also because he involved the UK in the insane war in Iraq and his government imitated his ally on the other side of the Atlantic in disseminating untruths about the danger represented by Saddam Hussein's imaginary arsenal of mass destruction and links with Osama bin Laden's Al Qaeda."

McMullen